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Item 18 of the provisional agenda*
Country names

List of country names

Submitted by France**

Summary***

Following its participation in the meeting of the Working Group on Country Names, which was held at Lefkada, Greece, in November 2005, the French-speaking Division replied to the survey proposed by the Convener.

It appears that the "National Official" section contains some differences, which are mainly due to the presence or absence of the initial or internal article required by the syntax in French. It also appears necessary to recall that French typography indicates the diacritics on certain capital letters, particularly the "É" in the word "État".

The French-speaking Division wishes to recall that, in general, the French commissions specializing in toponymy have agreed to consider all country names as exonyms, in view of the frequency of their use. For that reason, several changes could be made to the "UN Official" section, subject to the agreement of the Terminology and Reference Section of the United Nations.

This approach would help to provide the homogeneity necessary for country names in all public documents and publications, which is an obvious requirement for the widest possible dissemination among users of the good practices officially recommended.

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* E/CONF.98/1.

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*** The full text of the paper is being issued in French only as document E/CONF.98/116/Add.1.

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